

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 33, 34, 37-57, 60-71, 74-84, 87-96, and 99-108 are pending; no claims are newly added, canceled, or amended herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 33, 34, 37-39, and 41-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Darbee et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,130,726, hereafter Darbee) in view of Fajkowski (U.S. Pat. No. 5,905,246); Claims 56, 57, 60-71, 74-84, 87-96, and 99-108 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Darbee in view of Fajkowski and further in view of Kishtaka (U.S. Pat. No. 6,084,643); and Claims 40, 52, and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Darbee in view of Fajkowski and further in view of Hirose (U.S. Pat. No. 5,917,915).

Applicants note that the outstanding rejections of the pending claims are all based upon the primary reference, Darbee. The present application claims priority to the Japanese application JP 09-193588, filed on July 18, 1997. Applicants respectfully perfect priority by filing herewith a certified English translation of Japanese priority document JP 09-193588, which was filed prior to effective filing date of Darbee, which is a continuation in part of Application No. 08/999,716, filed October 6, 1997. Application No. 08/999,716 is a continuation of Application No. 08/823,507. The undersigned have not reviewed the contents of Application No. 08/999,716 or 08/823,507, as the rejection is based solely upon the CIP application patent Darbee, which has a filing date later than the Applicants' perfected priority date.

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, in view of the perfection of priority. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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